

We Claim:

1. A method of conducting an international transaction in goods between a buyer having a destination location for the goods and a seller of the goods having a selling location for the goods, comprising:

identifying a source country for the seller's goods and a buying country for the
5 buyer's destination for the goods;

querying a shipping module to calculate a total shipping cost for shipping the goods along a shipping rout to the service level;

querying a brokering module to calculate a total brokering cost for brokering the goods along the shipping rout;

10 querying a tax module to calculate a total tax cost for the sale and transportation of the goods;

providing a total cost to the buyer, the total cost including a sale price, the total shipping cost, the total brokering cost and the total tax cost;

receiving authorization to conduct the transaction;

15 transmitting shipping instructions to a carrier; and

transmitting customs invoice information to a customs broker.

2. The method of claim 1, and further comprising transmitting manufacture instructions upon receiving authorization to conduct the transaction.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the shipping instructions includes reciting the total shipping cost calculated in the step of querying a database of shipping information.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting a customs invoice includes reciting the total brokering cost calculated in the step of querying a database of brokering information.

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5. The method of claim 1, and further comprising:
receiving and tracking status updates regarding the status of the goods in transport to the buyer; and
providing status reports in response to status requests received regarding the
5 status of the goods.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the authorization to conduct the transaction is received from the buyer after the step of providing a total cost to the buyer.
7. The method of claim 6, and further comprising:
querying transaction restriction modules to identify any national restrictions that would make the transaction illegal; and
notifying all parties that the transaction can not be completed if any national
5 restrictions making the transaction illegal are identified.
8. The method of claim 7, and further comprising transmitting messages to relevant legal compliance modules configured to track legal compliance information for subsequent reporting to relevant national governments.
9. The method of claim 8, and further comprising transmitting an authorization to bill to a billing module upon receipt of a proof of delivery.

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10. A method of conducting an international transaction in goods between a buyer having a destination location for the goods and a seller of the goods having a manufacturing location for the goods, comprising:

- identifying a source country for the seller's goods and a buying country for the
- 5 buyer's destination for the goods;
- querying a procurement module to solicit bids from suppliers for and contract manufacturers for the manufacture of the goods;
- querying a shipping module to calculate a total shipping cost for all shipping necessary to manufacture and deliver the goods along a shipping rout;
- 10 querying a brokering module to calculate a total brokering cost for brokering the goods during shipment;
- querying a tax module to calculate a total tax cost for the sale and transportation of the goods;
- providing a total cost to the buyer, the total cost including a sale price, the total
- 15 shipping cost, the total brokering cost and the total tax cost;
- receiving authorization to conduct the transaction.

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